

REMARKS

A total of 21 claims are now pending in the present application. The foregoing amendments are presented in response to the Office Action mailed August 8, 2007, wherefore reconsideration of this application is requested.

By way of the above-noted amendments, claim 1 has been cancelled in favour of new claims 21 and 22. Claims 2-20 have been amended to more clearly define features of the present invention. In preparing the above-noted claim amendments, careful attention has been paid to ensure that no new subject matter has been introduced. Accordingly, entry and consideration of the amended claims is believed to be proper, and such action is courteously solicited.

Referring now to the text of the Office Action:

- claims 1-5 and 7-19 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as unpatentable over the teaching of United States Patent Application No. 2004/0228323 (Acharya et al.) or United States Patent No. 6,724,722 (Wang et al.); and
- claims 6 and 20 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form for including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As an initial matter, Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 6 and 20. The Examiner's rejections of claims 1-5 and 7-19 are believed to be fully traversed by way of the above-noted claim amendments, and further in view of the following comments.

Acharya et al and Wang et al teach respective methods by which routes through a network may be computed. As such, these references are illustrative of the background art discussed in the present specification. However, neither of these references appear to teach or fairly suggest any means by which route availability information pertaining to the computed routes might be represented in an abstracted network map. In fact, neither reference even mentions an abstracted network map, much less how route availability information may be

indicated therein. More particularly, neither of the cited references teaches or suggest a limitation of "for each abstracted link of the abstracted network map, assigning to the abstracted link respective resource availability information of the optimal route between the NE's represented by the respective nodes of the abstracted link.", as required by independent claims 8, 14 and 21.

Accordingly, it is believed that the presently claimed invention is clearly distinguishable over the teachings of United States Patent Application No. 2004/0228323 (Acharya et al.) and/or United States Patent No. 6,724,722 (Wang et al.).

In light of the foregoing, it is believed that the present invention is in good condition for allowance, and early action in that respect is courteously solicited.

If any extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is required to obtain entry of this response, such extension is hereby respectfully requested. If there are any fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 which are not enclosed herewith, including any fees required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-5113.

Respectfully submitted,
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